

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-16 (cancelled).

17 (original). A method of converting a clutch having at least one spring mounted on a clutch cover into a centrifugally assisted clutch, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing at least one centrifugal lever housing including a lever pivotable in the housing for applying a force to a pressure plate of the clutch;

forming an opening for the lever in the cover of the clutch;  
inserting the lever in the opening; and  
securing the housing to the cover.

18 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein said providing at least one lever housing step comprises providing three lever housings.

19 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein said at least one lever housing comprises a cartridge.

20 (original). The method of claim 19 wherein said securing the housing step comprises welding the cartridge to the cover.

21 (original). The method of claim 17 further comprising forming an opening in the spring for the lever.

22 (original). The method of claim 21 further comprising securing a contact pad to the pressure plate of the clutch and aligning the contact pad for contact with the lever.

23 (original). The method of claim 22 wherein said securing the contact pad step comprises welding a contact pad to an upper face of the pressure plate of the clutch.

24 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein said at least one lever housing comprises a mounting bracket.

25 (original). The method of claim 24 wherein said securing the housing step comprises welding the bracket to the cover.

26 (original). The method of claim 17 wherein inserting the lever step comprises aligning the lever for contact with the spring.

27 (currently amended). A centrifugal lever assembly for a clutch comprising:

a housing sized and shaped for mounting on a clutch cover;  
a lever pivotably mounted on the housing and adapted to be received in an opening in the cover to apply a force in response to rotation of the clutch cover to a pressure plate of a clutch.

28 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 27 wherein said housing is a cartridge mounted on the clutch cover.

29 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 28 further comprising a spring attached to the cartridge and positioned for engagement with the lever.

30 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 29 wherein said lever comprises a head protruding from the cartridge, a heel for applying an axial force to the pressure plate of the clutch, and a toe for engaging the spring.

31 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 30 wherein said lever is pivotable relative to the cover and configured for contact with the pressure plate to apply said axial force to the pressure plate.

32 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 30 wherein said heel has a radius of curvature of approximately 0.25 inches.

33 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 29 wherein said cartridge comprises a rear chamber for receiving the lever and a base for receiving the spring.

34 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 33 wherein said cartridge comprises at least one stop for contacting said lever to limit the pivoting movement of the lever.

35 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 34 wherein said at least one stop comprises a first stop on the base of the cartridge and a second stop in the rear chamber of the cartridge.

36 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 27 wherein said housing comprises a mounting bracket.

37 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 36 wherein said lever comprises a head disposed at least partially inside said clutch cover and a base disposed at least partially outside of said clutch cover.

38 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 37 wherein said head is in contact with a diaphragm spring of said clutch to apply said axial force to the pressure plate.

39 (original). The centrifugal lever assembly set forth in claim 38 wherein said head comprises a roller in contact with said diaphragm spring.

40-46 (cancelled).